यह पुरुषों का महिलाओं पर अत्याचार है । मेरी अपनी बहन हैं वे वेद पढ़ाती हैं । डा. वेद कुमारी बड़ा अच्छा पढ़ा रही हैं । आज के युग में हमें महिलाओं को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए जो कुछ संभव हो सकता है करना चाहिये । यह प्रसन्नता की बात है कि हमारे यहां अब सर्विसेज में महिलायें बड़ी संख्या में आ रही हैं । कल श्रीनगर में वूमेन कान्फ्रेंस हुई थी इंडस्ट्रियल इन्टरप्रोनर्स की । उसमें उन्होंने कहा है इंडस्ट्रियल डेवलेपमेंट के क्षेत्र में महिलाओं को आगे नहीं बढ़ने दिया जा रहा है । मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करूंगा कि कम से कम महिलाओं को इंडस्ट्री के फील्ड में आगे जाने के लिए उचित अवसर देने हेतु अपना पूरा योगदान दे ताकि वे इस क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ सकें । धन्यवाद ।

SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: I would like to congratulate Veena Verma Ji for having brought this Resolution in the House. It really pertains to a social change in the society. The society is undergoing a very fast change. Knowing full well that the society is changing very fast, when the Constitution was framed an Article was introduced in the Fundamental Rights Chapter. That is Article 15, Clause (3). There it is specially stated: "The State can enact any legislation required for the upliftment of the women and children." Therefore, there is ample scope to remove all these difficulties by bringing about these legislations on the Statute Book, if the State required to do so. So many efforts have been made, but we have found that by one way or other they have been defeated. Therefore, I would submit that unless this defeating process of useful legislations is prohibited or stopped somewhere, it is impossible to bring into practice all these necessary matters which Shrimati Veena Verma has highlighted. Point nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 mentioned in the Resolution are all connected with Article 15, sub-clause (3) of the Constitution and points nos 4, 5, 6, 7; 8; 9 and 10 have been replied to by the Minister. Therefore, what I would like to say is that this whimsical behaviour of the male is the cause for apprehension. No doubt provisions have been made in various legislations, but there is this apprehension. Since she has brought this Resolution before the House, we should encourage it. That is my submission.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी और सम्माननीय सदस्यों की आभारी हूं । उन्होंने मेरे इस प्रस्ताव पर काफी विचार किया है और इस पर काफी संशय भी आये हैं और जैसा कि अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा और इस पर एश्योरेंस दिया कि सरकार इस संबंध में काम कर रही है और इस बारे में कानून भी कम नहीं हैं और स्वयं सरकार स्त्रियों की शिक्षा एवं उनके उत्थान की तरफ खासतौर से ध्यान दे रही है और इस आशा के साथ कि सरकार इस दिशा में और तेजी से कदम बढ़ायेगी, इस ओर ध्यान देगी, मैं अपना यह संकल्प वापस लेती हूं ।

**The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.*

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

"BANDH" on 15th March, 1988

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to inform the House about the factual position with regards to Bandh on 15th March. The call for Bandh was given jointly by some political parties to be observed on 15th March, 1988. This call also coincided with the call for 3 day strike given by some Unions in Central Public Section Undertakings from 14th of March. I am happy to inform the House that in spite of the call given by these parties, life generally in the country was normal on that day except for the States of West Bengal, Kerala and to some extent in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Impact would have been negligible had the call for strike by the Central Public Sector Undertakings not been given.

---

*For the text of the Resolution, vide cols. suprs. 310-11

[Shri Buta Singh]

State Government offices did not function in West Bengal and Kerala and were partially affected in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh due to the stand taken by these State Governments. In the remaining States, the attendance of the State Government employees as well as the Central Government employees was normal. Even in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, the attendance in some of the Central Government offices was reported to be 40 to 50 per cent. In West Bengal, about 10 to 15 per cent of the Central Government employees attended offices by staying overnight in their offices. Had these State Governments made arrangements for providing adequate public transport facilities, it is more than likely that the attendance in Central Government offices as well as in State Government offices in these States would have been much higher. The Honourable Members might have noticed life in Delhi was absolutely normal. Even in Haryana, attendance in Government offices was normal.

In West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, public transport especially in urban areas was totally withdrawn and limited private transport was plying in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh only. It seems apparently, no attempt was made by these State Governments to ensure the availability of public transport facilities for obvious reasons. In rest of the country, road transport services were running more or less normally.

Schools and colleges were closed in West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. In Tamil Nadu, attendance in government colleges was low and private schools were closed. In Bihar, most of the Educational institutions were open and examinations were conducted as per schedule. Even in West Bengal, examinations under Central Board of Secondary Education were conducted. In rest of the country, educational institutions functioned normally.

Rail services were normal in Northern Western Central and North-Eastern zones. However, in the Eastern zone, train services were totally suspended in West Bengal except the Calcutta Metro which ran normally. There was some disruption in Southern (Kerala area), North-East Frontier (West Bengal area), south-eastern and south-Central zones. Interference/picketing etc. by Bandh supporters was noticed extensively in Kerala and West Bengal. Some minor incidents also took place in Andhra Pradesh and Assam. No railway property was damaged at any place.

Indian Airlines operated all its scheduled flights from Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Hyderabad and Bangalore. Three additional chartered flights were also operated from Delhi to Guwahati and back. Though IAC flights to Calcutta from Delhi Madras and Bombay took place, no flight orginiated from Calcutta All the scheduled Vayudoot services from Calcutta were operated. Similarly Air India and other International carriers operated all international flights. Calcutta airport also handled 3 international flights which had been diverted to it from Dhaka. There was 100 per cent attendance in all the 96 airports including Calcutta Airport.

Telecommunication facilities worked normally except in West Bengal and Kerala. Similarly, post offices functioned normally in most of the country except in West Bengal and Kerala. Movement of postal vans was however affected in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Andhra Pradesh. Port operations were normal in Bombay, Madras, Paradeep, Tuticorin, Vishakhapatnam and Kandla Port operations were also normal in Calcutta though attendance of the Class III employees was around 30 to 35 per cent.

Banking services were seriously affected in majority the States on account of 3 day strike call However, State Bank of India personnel did not take part in the strike and the S.B.I. branches functioned normally.

In spite of six day strike call in the Coal Industry as well as the call for Bandh, attendance and production in Coal India Ltd. was around 55 to 60 per cent. Similarly, in Neyvelli Lignite Corporation,

production was normal though attendance was low. The production and attendance in Southern Coking Coal Ltd. was, however, greatly affected. In Steel sector. Durgapur was affected while as attendance in Bokaro Bhilai and Rourkela was 75 per cent 100 per cent and 55 per cent respectively. Power Stations and offices under the Department of Atomic Energy functioned normally. Power generation and supply was normal throughout the country.

In the Petroleum sector, oil production activities were reported to be normal and all Refineries functioned normally except at Barauni, Mathura and Haldia which were partially affected.

Some incidents of firing have been reported; two in Bihar one in Andhra Pradesh, two in Tamil Nadu, one in Rajasthan and one in Assam. One person is reported to have died in Bihar as a result of police firing. A few cases of arson of vehicles and stone pelting have been reported from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Bihar.

At 11.40 hours information was received at Police Station Connaught Place that DTC buses were being stoned by some women near Plaza bus stand. Patrolling staff and SHO Connaught Place reached the spot immediately. Two DTC buses and one private bus had their wind screens smashed. About 20 women and men led by a woman leader were shouting slogans in support of Bandh. They had blocked the entire road by forming a chain by holding hands with each other and some amongst them were still throwing stones at vehicles. The entire traffic had been blocked and the shopkeepers had started pulling down their shutters in panic. The SHO Connaught Place warned them to desist from these acts and to disperse forthwith. Repeated directions of SHO were ignored and consequently with the help of lady Police the agitators were arrested and taken to Police Station Connaught Place.

During this episode, Shri Chander Bhan, the driver of DTC bus was injured by a stone which hit him on the right side of his head. When the rioters disembarked from the bus near Cannaught Place Police Station, one constable was surrounded by several women led by Smt. Brinda Karat and assaulted. His uniforms was torn and he was physically beaten. The constable managed to break free from the mob with the help of lady police. In the melee, it appears Smt. Brinda Karat also sustained injury in her right fore-arm and knee Two constables were injured and were admitted i the hospital. Cases have been registered under the IPC and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

A complaint was received from Smt. Amarjit Kaur, and office bearer of CPI alleging assault on Smt. Brinda Karat by a constable. Another complaint was subsequently received from Smt. Brinda Karat. A preliminary inquiry to establish the facts and cicumstances of the alleged incident has been ordered to be conducted by ACP (Headquarters), New Delhi District. In all 12 women and 22 men were arrested under various sections of law and 8 women were detained under section 65 of Delhi Police Act and subsequently released.

It is unfortunate that in a democratic set up some Political parties have taken to undemocratic steps particularly when large parts of the country are reeling under the onslaught of severe drought. While it is the basic right of every citizen in this country to express his opinion for or against the Government and its policies, no democratic system can function if there are deliberate attempts to disrupt the normal life of the people. State Governments have an obligation under the Constitution to ensure the smooth functioning of the State and Central Government offices as well as providing efficient public services for the welfare of the people of the State. And yet in some of the States ruled by the Opposition Parties, the State Governments disregard these constitutional obligations. As the Honourable Members are aware, except for these few States, there was hardly any response from the rest of the country to the call

[Shri Buta Singh]

for Bandh. Even in these States, in certain areas, but for the withdrawal of State transport services by the State Governments, the result might have been different. Attepts by the miscreants to disrupt train and vehicular traffic in some States were foiled and some of the anti-social elements had to be detained. It is but natural that to prevent lawlessness and destruction of public property, preventive measures in a selected manner had to be taken. Some preventive arrests were made in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and some other States. However as per our reports, most of them have been released or are being releasd. I appeal to this Honourable House to condemn the irresponsible acts by anti-social elements in some of the States. I take this opportunity to congratulate people of this country in general and workers and employees in particular through this House for rejecting this undemocratic call for Bandh and thereby expressing their total lack of confidence in the policies pursued by these political parties.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is more than evident from the statement of the hon. Minister that the call for a Bharat Bandh was almost a flop in the whole of the country except in four States namely West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. It is indeed a very serious matter that the Government of these four States, instead of protecting the loyal workers who wanted to report for duty and who wanted to work in the best and larger interests of the nation, abetted the crime that was perpetrated by political workers against these people who were assaulted. I have information that in Calcutta, our State Commerce Minister, Shri P. R. Das Munshi, was assaulted, manhandled by CPM workers and his security guards were injured *(Interruptions)*.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): It is wornng.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY (West Bengal): It is absolute untruth. *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No interruptions. Please, sit down. Go ahead Mr. Sukul.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: On the Sayavak Vaidya Road in Calcutta, sweetmeat shops were looted and the portrait of Smt. Indira Gandhi was damaged.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Where?

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: In South Calcutta. In Kerala, the car of the General Manager of Malayala Manorama was waylaid and the driver was attacked in front of the Collector's office and no police help or anything was extended to him. In Kunnamkulam in Trichoor District, the LDF workers attacked Dhanalakshmi Bank and South Indian Bank on the bandh day. The Managing Director of oil palm India Limited was attacked by LDF workers in Kerala. The Director of Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum and three other employees were injured and three vehicles of the Kendra were damaged by the CPM workers. In Raichur town in Karnataka, three drunken Janata party workers smashed a sweetmeat shop. It is very serious matter that even if some workers want to work, they cannot do so. *(Interruptions)* It is a very serious matter that loyal workers who want to work in the larger interests of the country are not protected by these Governments. Therefore, Sir I would like to know from the hon. Minister how he proposes to tackle the situation and what measures the Government is contemplating to ensure that loyal workers who want to work on such occasions, whether it is a strike or a bandh are provided adequate protection for the purpose. Sir, law and order is no doubt, a State subject. But if the State Governments themselves connive in them and engineer strikes or bandhs and refuse to protect loyal workers who are assaulted by their political workers what is the way out? Will the Government of India give a serious thought to it and try to evolve some Constitutional remedy?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): I associate myself with my colleague.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Before I call the next speaker, may I have the permission of the House to request Shri P. N. Sukul to take the Chair?

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI P. N. SUKUL) *in the Chair*].

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the statement of the hon. Minister is crystal clear to prove that the bandh call given by the opposition parties is a total flop. Only in four States West Bengal, Kerala, part of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, wherein their Chief Ministers are there, they used all their machinery to see that the bandh was a success. The official machinery has been used by them for their political purposes. But in other States, whether it is Assam or Jammu and Kashmir or any other opposition—ruled States or even the Congress(I)—ruled States, we have seen that life was going on normally. It is very clear that the people have rejected the bandh call given by the Opposition leaders and the Opposition parties.

Sir, I fully agree with the statement of the honourable Minister that in a democratic country everyone has got the right to agitate for his claims. But the people have no right to damage the public property and they have no right to usurp power for meeting their political ends. But we are in a critical condition. In many parts of the country the people are reeling under drought. But the irresponsible Opposition paties have taken advantage of this situation for the purpose of showing that they are against the Central Government. Fortunately, the people of this country have rejected them.

Now, Sir, there were certain incidents in West Bengal and Kerala. In Kerala on the day of the bandh by the CPI(M), the Director of the Doordarshan there was attacked and his car was damaged... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: What about the false propaganda by the Doordarshan? It was being misused against the bandh... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The CPI(M) goondas have taken the law into their own hands... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Talk in the language of the civilized people... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE (Assam): Then we should call them hooligans?... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Mr. Bhattacharjee, I know you and I know the facts (*Interruptions*)...You know nothing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI P. N. SUKUL): It is all right; both of you know each other.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: They have attacked the Director of Doordarshan in Trivandrum and his car was badly damaged. This is a shame on the part of the Kerala Government which had to protect public property, especially the Central Government property. But it allowed the goondas to cause damage to the Central Government property and attack an officer of the Central Government. Then, I will give you another instance. The Editor of the leading Malayalam newspaper, the "Malayala Manorama", was attacked. This is the treatment they are giving to a journalist.

In several places in Kerala, persons working in Government offices, especially Central Government offices, have been waylaid and they have not been allowed to go to their jobs. This is happening in a democratic country where a person who wants to go to his job is prevented by the Opposition party people who are ruling there. Persons who wanted to lead a normal life have been attacked and normal life was paralysed in Kerala and in West Bengal.

Sir, I will quote two instances from West Bengal. One incident relates to the attack on a central Minister, the Minister of State for Commerce, by the CPI(M) rowdies.. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): Then, I think, you are referring to the attack on

[Shri M. A. Baby]

him by Asoke Sen and company... (*Interruptions*)... I think you are referring to that. That was some time back. That is not a recent incident... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am mentioning about the incident on the day previous to the day of the *bandh*, that is, on the 14th of this month. This Central Minister was returning from Hooghly district and he was waylaid by the CPI(M) goondas and his car was attacked and his bodyguard was attacked... (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: This is all wrong... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You may say whatever you like. But this is what has happened. The Chief Minister is responsible for this... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Sir, I object to his using the word 'goonda' ... (*Interruptions*) ..

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: He should not use this word... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I will change it from 'goondas' to 'hooligans'. Sir, in the Doordarshan office in Calcutta, the CPI activists... (*Interruptions*). A delegation went there to the Director... (*Interruptions*). Sir, the CPM hooligans ransacked the Reception building and caused damage to the Doordarshan sign-board. This is the kind of democracy they are having in West Bengal and Kerala. Sir, the Chief Minister of West Bengal gave a public statement that he would not protect public property, that is, the Central Government property, and he would not give protection to the railways. Such kind of irresponsible Chief Ministers we have in our country. (*Interruptions*). The CPM Government has completely used it for political ends. (*Interruptions*). Sir, law and order is a State subject. The Central Government cannot interfere in that. It is the duty of the State Chief Minister to protect the life and property of every citizen of that State. Apart from that, if it is the Central Government property or State Government property, he has to give protection. But when the Chief Minister himself behaves in an irresponsible way and says that he will not give protection to the Central Government property and when we have such Chief Ministers in States, I appeal to the Home Minister to take immediate steps. The Home Minister should give an assurance on the floor of the House as to what action he is going to take against Chief Ministers who behaved irresponsibly on the day of the 'Bandh'.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, sometimes it is usual on the part of political leaders and political people not to answer insinuations which are beyond any comprehension. I will not answer the insinuation that the West Bengal Government refused to protect the property of the Central Government neither shall I answer the insinuation that it is the hooligans of CPM who indulged in this or that thing in Calcutta or West Bengal. Let us discuss the facts of life. And I believe the Home Minister also shall speak to the House in the way a political leader should.

Sir, I understand that not always intelligent people are called upon to become Ministers. But Mr. Buta Singh should not consider himself to be so intelligent as to believe that he can make us believe the statement that he has just issued or placed before the House. He says that the Bandh had been successful only in West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and, to some extent in Karnataka; in the rest of the country the Bandh has been a flop. Or, in other words, the Bandh has been successful only in those places where it was State managed. But may I ask the hon. Home Minister to go through the reports of the Press that appeared the next day? I shall not go too far. I would just be quoting from 'Business Standard' of the Anand Bazar Patrika publications. It says:

"...the bandh was total in non-Congress(I) states like West Bengal,

Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. But what could be a grave portent for the Congress(I), two states ruled by it, Bihar and Orissa also gave enthusiastic support to the bandh.

"Reports from these two states indicated that the bandh there was near-total despite strong police measures, including wide-scale pre-emptive arrests of leaders and workers of the parties which called the bandh."

Sir, Business Standard is not a publication of the C.P.I.(M) or the C.P.I. or any of the parties which had sponsored the Bandh. Another newspaper from Calcutta, Telegraph, has also published a report. It has no bias for the Left Front Government. The report that is published in it categorically says that the Congress (I) fails to keep Bihar open. "Unprecedented arrangements made by the Government did not succeed in foiling the opposition-sponsored Bandh." According to all available reports, but not according to reports received by Mr. Buta Singh, the Bandh in Bihar was largely successful though marred by the incidents of police firing. I can quote from a number of other newspapers saying that the Bandh was successful. It was successful not because of the refusal of the State Government of West Bengal and Kerala to protect public property. It had also earned a large measures of success throughout the country. In Telegraph, there is a graphic account of the success of Bandh in Rajasthan, in Orissa, in Tamil Nadu, in Bombay and in some other parts of the country. I do not know who are the informers of Mr. Buta Singh or what is the price that he is going to pay to people who have framed up this fabricated pack of lies to mislead the House and the nation as a whole. In my opinion, the Bandh on the 15th had been an unprecedented action on the all-India scale taking place on a single day. Never before, never before even during the Independence struggle, such a widespread action had taken place on the same day. It was successful in the face of the action that you had taken What is the action that the Government had taken? Ten people were killed and about 40,000 were arrested.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): About a lakh.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: About a lakh of people had been arrested.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH: You can say 'about 10 lakhs'.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: My imagination is not so wild as yours. It makes little difference whether the number of arrests was one lakh or 30,000. The point is that there were large scale preventive arrests throughout the country. There have been large scale stormings of the police into the offices of the political parties. There has been large scale intimidation. There have been large scale threats. There has been large scale repression in the country. Even in the face of such large scale repression people had responded magnificently to the call of Bandh. The Bandh had taken place in the background of shameless propaganda conducted through television and State media. Mr Buta Singh can earn the distinction of gaining superiority over Mr. Goebbels. What the television had shown on the day of the Bandh? It had shown as if Bihar was normal. This report says that educational institutions were open in Bihar. Can he deny that public life in Patna was totally disrupted? He has said that some of the offices were well attended in Bhuvneshwar. Can he deny that not a single establishment was open on that day in the State of Bhuvneshwar? Can he deny that thousands of people were put in jail in Tamil Nadu? Can he deny that life in large number of places came to a standstill in Rajasthan? Can he deny that the working classes in a large number of institutions in Maharashtra had responded to the call? Can he deny that even in the city of Delhi the textile mills were closed? Can he deny that in the city of Delhi a large number of factories were also closed?

6.00 P.M.

Therefore to say that schools were open and examinations had taken place is to give an absolutely lopsided

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

report a partial report a biased report, a fabricated report, a misleading report; totally basing on the reports supplied or cooked up by the police informers, according to the sweet will of the Ministers and officers in the Home Ministry of the Government of India.

Sir, the statement says that coal production was 60 per cent. Mr. Buta Singh says that coal production was 60 per cent. Then why was it necessary to invoke the provisions of ESMA? Invoking of the provisions of ESMA clearly indicates that the work in the collieries came to a stand still. Therefore, Sir, according to me this is a statement prepared by the propaganda machinery of the Congress. This is a report prepared by the police informers and this is a report prepared to mislead the public opinion of this country (*Interruptions*).

Now, Sir, coming to Delhi; let me show you some of the pictures published in the next days newspapers. I hope Mr. Buta Singh has the time to go through the newspapers. This is a newspaper and Mr. Buta Singh has, of course, hard feelings about this newspaper. It is the Indian Express. Mr. Buta Singh can lie but photographs cannot. This picture shows that a single woman is sought to be beaten up by policemen in the open, in the streets of Delhi. There is no trace of women police force. This is the picture, can he deny? This is another picture published by the Tribune. A number of women volunteers are being collectively assaulted by policemen. Another newspaper the Navbharat Times has the same picture. Women are surrounded not by non-violent volunteers of the Home Ministry but by the policemen who are armed. They are surrounding the women.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI P. N. SUKUL): Mr. Gupta, now clarifications please. You have taken already ten minutes.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to get some more time to seek clarifications to base my questions on the material that I have at the moment. This is another picture. A woman is being beaten up. Who is this woman? This woman is the wife of Baby George. She is being beaten up by policemen.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Jagesh Desai in the Chair.]

Therefore my point before the House is whether it is permitted in our country to deploy armed policemen to beat up, to arrest, to surround women volunteers, is it permitted? Is it not necessary for the Government to employ women police force? Why was there no women police force? Why were they arrested like this? Why were they tortured like this? Why were they surrounded like this? I am told, Mr. Vice Chairman Sir, that in the course of the arrests being made our women comrades were simply molested, by the policemen. Why and how could this take place? Is he ready to institute a judicial inquiry? Now my points and my clarifications: What is the number of police firings in the course of the bandh? In how many places firing had taken place? How many people were killed and injured? In how many places lathi-charges were made? What is the amount of money that the Government had to spend to foot the bill for carrying on a campaign against the bandh on TV screens? How many male policemen were on duty in Connaught Circus on that day and how many women policemen were on duty on that day? What is the number of women police personnel and what is the number of male police personnel? My fifth question is, has the Government received complaints of manhandling of women volunteers by the male police? If yes, what is he going to do about it? Is he ready to institute a judicial enquiry into the incidents of molestation of women in police vans? We are discussing values, social values, human values, role of women. It is permitted in a civilised country to behave with the womenfolk in an uncivilised way? Can the police behave with a woman in that manner, and if the police has behaved with women volunteers in an uncivilised way, what our

civisised Home Minister is going to do? What steps is he going to take to discipline the police force in the capital of the country, who are supposed to be the custodian and are not to indulge in law-breaking the way it was done on the day of the badh on 15th in Connaught Circus?

Lastly, I discribe this report as totally baseless, fabricated and it is not worth the paper on which it is written.

SHRI M. A. BABY: When I was going through the statement made by the hon. Home Minister, I was reminded of a remark made by our Prime Minister regarding the press to which I do not subscribe that papers are propagating the lies. This was quoted in many papers. But I do not think so. But while going through the statement made by the Home Minister, I was wondering why the Prime Minister did not say so regarding the Home Ministry so that he could have claimed to be stating a truth, unlike, what he said about the press.

Already some of my colleagues, especially Comrade Gurudas Das Gupta tried to compare the Ministerial statement with some photographs. I do no know whether the Home Ministry will say that these photographs are fabricated, unlike the statement of Home Minister. In the statement, about the incident in Delhi, in the Connaught Place some observations are there but there is no mention about women being manhandled, or beaten up by police. It is stated that with the help of women police those who were obstructing the traffic were arrested and removed. This is what is stated here. But what we find from the photographs appearing in The Indian Express is a policeman swinging lathi on a girl, a young girl. So, who is lying here? I would like to humbly seek this clarification first. I hope a clear-out clarification would be given to this question.

Now, about the happenings in Delhi, on page 5 of the statement, it is stated that several women led by Shrimati Brinda Kara assaulted the police I would like to know whether the police person sustained an injury due to that assault by this woman, and what is the name of that police constable who received this injury. I have an entirely different statement to make regarding this particular incident. As has been mentioned by hon. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, these women were very badly attacked. This can be seen from many photographs. Women were attacked by male police personnel. I will not say that there were no female personnel. Female personnel were there. There were two female personnel and they were simple onlookers. This is what had actually happened. Whole of the situation was controlled by male police personnel. Not only they brutally assaulted and attacked women in a most uncivilized way but tried to molest many young girls also. This is acutally what happened there. When they were arrested and taken to the Connaught Place police station, Shrimati Brinda Karat, one responsibe leaders of the democratic womens' organisation, wanted to ascertain the name of the particular police person who was behaving in a most barbarous manner. She wanted to ascertain his name. She went to that policeman and asked him his name. This is what revoked the police to beat her up. She was very brutally attacked within the police station just because she asked for the name of the policeman who was misbehaving with young women in a manner which I do not want to narrate here. This is what had actually happened. But unfortunately, instead of admitting at least that some unfortunate events occurred, the Home Minister has come out with a statement which he has either made due to his ignorance or due to the ignorance of the Home Ministry. I do not think it is coming right from the knowledge of Shri Buta Singh of Shri Chindambaram, who are such eminent persons, intelligent persons. I do not hope that such misleading statements, untruthful statements have been made due to ignorance. If this is due to ignorance, the representative of the Home Ministry should stand up and owe this. Otherwise for self-deception... (*Interruptions*) I am still prepared to give the benefit of doubt.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is no use. Shri Buta Singh is the greatest manipulator of truth.

SHRI M. A BABY: I have just cited what had happened in Delhi in order to prove that all the references relating to what had happened elsewhere in other parts of the country are also misrepresentation of facts. If the Home Ministry would like to engage itself in self-deception that this Bandh had been a failure, you can do that self-deception at the risk of your self-destruction in future.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Why are you worried so much about us?

SHRI M. A. BABY: We are not worried about yourself, we are worried about the future of the people of this country.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: You take care of yourselves.

SHRI M. A. BABY: That is what has happened. The people of the country are taking care of themselves. This has been proved on 15th March. Still if you want to engaged yourself in self-deception and misleading statements, that would be dangerous for you, not exactly for you but for the future of our country as a whole. Now the statement of the Home Minister has certain concealed threats to Opposition ruled States, which is a serious thing. These threats have been concealed in the statement that constitutional responsibility is not being fulfilled by the Opposition-ruled State Governments. That is there in the statement. We know that the ruling party at the Centre is not concerned about safeguarding the integrity of our country and safeguarding the unity of various people speaking different languages and living in various parts of the country.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): You have already taken ten minutes. Please conclude now.

SHRI M. A. BABY: I am concluding, Sir. I know you have always been indulgent towards me.

You who are ruling the Centre have issued veiled threats to the Opposition-ruled States that "if you behave like this and unless you behave like this, we will do something". We know that article 356 is there in the Constitution. We know that. And knowing that you must be issuing such threats, perhaps more with arrogance, having a more authoritarian Act in your hands which you have passed through a captive majority that you are having. And this is not just a threat according to the happeings that are being reported in the Press. One the day of the Bandh in Kerala ....**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, please. You cannot raise that.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Sir, this is the House of States. Where else can I say this?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): This cannot be discussed in this House like this. This should not be recorded.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Sir, this has be reported and discussed in the State Assembly I seek your protection.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, You cannot discuss this here.

SHRI M. A. BABY: **

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): You have already taken 12 minutes. You please conclude now.

SHRI M. A. BABY: I do not want to go any further into it. I am abiding by your ruling. This shows that there is something more than what meets the eye in relation to the concealed threat that you have included in that statement.

Sir, I would like to specifically know what is the meaning of the wording used in the statement that many anti-socials had to be arrested. It is there in the statements of the Minister. Is Mr. Chaturanan Mishra, who is a Member of this august House, an anti-social who was arrested on the day of the bandh? Is Mr. Nripen Chakrovatry the 82 year old veteran freedom fighter and former Chief Minister of Tripura an anti-social? You include all the thousands and thousands of people who are outstanding leaders of the cause of democratic movement in our country and you call them anti-socials. What is the meaning of this statement? It is mentioned there anti-social bad

**Not recorded.

to be arrested. This is the kind of irresponsible statement that the Home Ministry is making This is not the statement of the Home Ministry, but it is a statement of All India Congress Committee. Being the ruling party, even if it is the statements of AICC, we expect a little more understanding and a little more truthfulness. I hope the Home Minister, while giving explanations for the clarifications will specifically mention—who are all the police people who sustained injuries form the attack by women in Delhi in the incident of 15th March and whom does he refer to in the terminology "anti-socials"? As other point have been covered by other hon. Members, so I conclude. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Chitta Basu, Please be brief. I know that you will be brief.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I am to the point. I shall stick to my limit.

Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir this statement, if you allow me to say, is not a statement of the Home Minister of a country of India's variety, vastness and particularities. When I was listening to the statement being read by him, I for the time being, had forgotten that it is Parliament and was wondering whether it is the ALCC(I) office or it is a statement made by the Home Minister of our country.

Sir, today, the reality he political reality is that it is not the Congress (I) Party which alone rules this country but that there are non-Congress (I) parties also. It has to be remembered by the Home Minister that while making a statement in the capacity of the Home Minister of the country, he should take into account that more than a dozen of the State Governments are not being run, conducted by his party, but by parties opposed to his party.

Whatever might have been his assessment, I would say that the facts are different. His statements are far from the truth with regard to the sweep of the Bharat bandh which was really a sweep. It was for the first time that people belonging to different sections or segments of our country on a particular day all voer the country had registered their protest and protested in a democratic way. In Delhi or some other cities of this part of the country, particularly Haryana, the fact remains, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, that the industrial sector belt observed the strike for the first time in the most successful way. There was strike in all the industrial areas in the country. It is not needed for me to mention about the places. In Maharahtra in Bombay your State, never had the people of Bombay witnessed such a pervasive industrial action. Therefore, as an industrial, action, we are quite happy that the strike has become a success.

This statement raised certain very basic questions. One basic question is whether it is correct that the Opposition parties who are wedded to democracy have given the call, whether they are responsible enough to give a call for strike of this nature. This is the basic issue he has raised in his statement.

Sir, I would like to make it clear that our Constitution provides that right, our Constitution guarantees that right that every citizen has got the right to press himself to protest in a democratic manner. Therefore, the accusation of the Home Minister that it was not adequately responsible is not warranted. As matter of fact, he says in other words that the Opposition parties were not responsible enough because they gave a call for the portest action. By that statement he has not taken into account the democratic right enjoyed by the people and guaranteed by the Constitution. We say, we have got every right to give a call for industrial action, protest action, and this is our democratic right.

There is another very basis question raised by him in the course of his statement. Many hon. Members have mentioned about this. Again we find a threat from the Home Minister against the non-Congress (I) Governments. Earlier the Prime Minister was on record to say that he can dismiss a Government which goes the anti-national way. He can echo that voice Does this Home Minister intend to say that the State Governments, disregarded this Constitutional obligation? Therefore, he things that sobe actions have to be taken against those Governments.

[Shri Chitta Basu]

He should clarify on this. Why again this threat? Tell us what you have got in your mind. I may tell you that we as people outside can face it. The Government in West Bengal, the Government in Kerala and Government in other non-Congress (I) States are not there with your mercy. They have been elected by the people and they can continue their work so long as they enjoy the confidence of the people.

I deny the charge that the non-Congress (I) State Governments sponsored this strike. The strike was called by the opposition parties in all States and people responded to it. The Government of West Bengal, the Government of Karnataka or the Government of Kerala, as a Government, had no role to play, but I would say the parties were very much active parties. They took the leadership, gave directives and organised the masses in support of the protest action. Again you may raise objection, but allow me to say so. The role of the Governor of Kerala in relation to....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, please.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: When you have allowed this Home Minister to make a threat against the Constitutionally elected Governments, I have to say in relation to the strike what the Governer had done. I don't mention anybody's name. I would only say what a Governor of a non-Congress (I) State has done during the strike. She did not only advise the Chief Minister of that State that she has.. ..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, you can say in a general way.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: You strike out if I say anything unparliamentary. A Governor has no right generally to talk to the Press. The President of our country has got no right to talk to the Press, leave aside the question of the Governor. I would like to know whether the House will appreciate this conduct of the Governor whether he belongs to Kerala or to any other State. Can a Governor talk to the Press directly and give expression to his views? This it the question. I think these remarks are not to be considered as unparliamentary.

Now, I come to anti-social elements. He was launching when I was saying that the number of arrests has almost reached the limit of one lakh. Can he deny the fact? Our Tamil Nadu Members are here. More than 50,000 people have been arrested in Tamil Nadu. What is the number of arrests in Tripura? What is the number of arrests made in Bihar? Some Members of this House were also arrested. Therefore, all over the country there were severe repressive measures and there were firings. Not only that, as far as my reports go, even the Central Industrial Securtity Force opened fire in different places. Even the Statement admits that there were firing at least in two places including Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Assam. If all these non-Congress (I) Governments collaborated with them, then why was there firing in Andhra Pradesh? Therefore, there have been repressive measures in all the States. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is prepared to institute judicial enquiry in to the cases of firing at least in five or six States where there was firing? I want to know whether the Government is prepared to enquire into those firings and pay compensation to those who have fallen victims and also punish those who are found guilty.

Lastly, the question of lathi-charge of the women activists.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): That question has been raised.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Yes. I join my voice with them that it was reprehensible to allow the male police to handle the female demonstrators. The newspaper report and the photographs do show that women were being handled by male police. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to clarify those points which have been raised particularly in relation to the basic issues which arose out of this statement.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, Lord Macaulay once rightly pointed out that people have no

right to make the law but they have every opportunity to check and fight against the law. Similarly, our people have adequate opportunities to fight against the policies and programmes of the Government. The bandh is one of the acknowledged and democratic means to fight against the democratic Government which is a lawful means. Unfortunately, our Home Minister has said in his statement that it is undemocratic. He has also observed "highly objectionable and authoritarian one." The hon. Member has also stated in his statement that his statement deals with factual position. Actually it is not a statement of facts. It is a statement with fraudulent picture, suppression of facts and travesty of information.

Sir, despite the large-scale arrests and repressive measures and partisan attitude of the mass-media like T.V. and All India Radio, the bandh was much successful throughout India especially in Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu some of the political parties took it as a challenge and asked the people not to cooperate and heed to the call of the Opposition parties sponsored bandh. Despite their requests in Tamil Nadu the bandh was much successful in cities, towns, villages and hamlets. "The Hindu" newspaper has also stated "most of the shops in Madras and other urban centres remained closed for the day. But the attendance in the Government offices range from normal to near normal. Buses and train services were operated though with reduced occupancy". This is the report from 'The Hindu'.

The hon. Minister in his statement has stated "Some preventive arrests were made in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and some other States." When the Members from this side raised the question of number of arrests, in the House on that day, there was a lot of disapproval from the Treasury Benches saying that it was an exaggeration. But our Chief Secretary, Mr. Rajendran has said "485 persons have been arrested during the day for the specific offences and the number of people taken into preventive custody in connection with the bandh has risen to 18,000." The Chief Secretary himself has accepted that 18,000 people were arrested in Tamil Nadu. Actually, more than 25,000 people were arrested in Tamil Nadu. Perhaps our figure may be incorrect. Let the Home Minister submit an accurate figure to this august House. Normally, on the eve of the Bandh, anti-social elements, rowdy elements, miscreants are to be arrested. But what was the policy adopted by this Government? Honest people, dignified people were arrested in connection with this Bandh, including the former Chief Minister of Tripura. Former speaker of Tamil Nadu Pulavar Govindan was arrested but due to the intervention of the present Speaker he was released subsequently. Then, Sir, all these arrested people were locked in the prison cell like cattle and herd of sheep. There was no proper treatment because of overcrowded conditions and suffocation and one Vellaichamy lost his life in Tiruchi prison. Who is responsible for the loss of his life? I would like to know from the hon. Minister what compensation is going to be given by the Government to the people who have lost their lives in the Bandh? Therefore, I ask the Home Minister, number one, whether all the persons who were arrested in connection with the bandh have been released or not. Sir it has been stated in the Press that as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, it went off peacefully. Why was it required on the part of the Government to file specific cases against 480 persons on specific grounds? Therefore, I appeal to the Home Minister to withdraw those cases. More than that, Sir, the media was adopting a partisan attitude. That attitude must be curbed. It is against the will of the people. Sir before I conclude my speech I would like to remind that on the 15th March, 1988, the people of India expressed their displeasure, expressed their views against the policies of the present Government successfully. I hope, in future, in the battle of ballot also, they will confirm this opinion without any hesitation. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I had assured this House that I will come to this House with the factual position which is given just now to the House which I got from various States on the 15th March when the Bandh call was given. The hon. Members, specially the CPI(M) and CPI having completely failed

[Shri Aladi Arun *alias* V. Arunachalam]

in their designs through this bandh are trying to have that success in this House by making fillibusters here . . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What a great political profit he is trying to make . . . .(*Interruptions*).... You have failed in Punjab. You have failed in Sri Lanka. You are failing everywhere and now you are giving us sermons.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Now I have to answer every point that you have raised. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : You are the symbol of failure of the Government of India.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No interruptions will be recorded.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I am sure if I had stated in a single sentence that from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, the bandh was not successful, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta would not have brought a garland for me. I have to state the facts. The fact of the matter is that I find a very strange comrade, Mr. Chitta Basu, in that party. Only recently his friends, the Cabinet members of the West Bengal Government, have gone on record about the fair and free polls in West Bengal. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : West Bengal is certainly of a better standard. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH: This is the standard they would like. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It is not a question of the West Bengal Government or the Cabinet. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I can also very legitimately seek a clarification. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Is he speaking on behalf of the AICC or as the Home Minister of the country? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Since you have raised the issue I have to reply. I can very genuinely and legitimately seek a clarification from comrade Mr. Chitta Basu. While applying standards of political morality and democratic norms, may I ask you whether you have withdrawn your Ministers for making false statements against the Chief Minister? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHITTA BASU: That was the party leader. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH:..the statement made by the hon. Member of that Cabinet .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I can clarify. It was a conflict among the constituent parties of the Front.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It is a question of morality.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I can assure Mr. Buta Singh that no constituent of the West Bengal Left Front is .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH . West Bengal has not yet become the private property of the Forward Bloc and CPM. The people of West Bengal are suffering They have suffered in that conspiracy. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Buta Singh has not interrupted anybody. Please let him speak.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Therefore, Sir, when the....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. A. BABY: Mr. Chairperson. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Chairperson instead of clarifying the points....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): All of you, please hear him patiently.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Instead of replying to the clarifications, the hon. Minister is bringing in extraneous issues which is intended to cover up his wrong statements.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: When I presented the factual position, I did mention all

these things you have said. I did not say that the whole thing was smooth, there was no bandh. Wherever the strike of the trade unions had affected, I did mention. In Bihar, in West Bengal, in Orissa, I did mention it. But also ....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I am on a point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I will not allow you. You please sit down. ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI G RUDAS DAS GUPTA : I am on a point of order. You cannot deny me. He is misleading the House. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): There are so many Members. There are other Members in the House to point out if he is misleading. It is not for you. I am not allowing you.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I am prepared to read it again for Shri Gurudas Das Gupta's benefit. I have mentioned that the strike call given by some of the trade unions in coal sector in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa collieries did coincide with the bandh and this made the situation.. . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : In that sense, strike was there everywhere. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, when I said that collieries were affected (*Interruptions*) I am sure hon. Members are more experienced than I am. When I said Neyveli Lignite Corporation, the Singareni Collieries and many other steel sector companies, in Durgapur, Bokaro, Bhilai, whether they are in Bihar, Orissa or West Bengal, I have mentioned .... (*Interruptions*)....these undertakings... They happened to be ..(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Buta Singh I thank you because you are implying that the strike has been a success...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I did say that because, on account of this strike, the impact of this *bandh* in these pockets was more effective than it would naturally have been. Therefore to say that I have mentioned this and I have not mentioned that is wrong. I have mentioned both sides of the picture. But, at the same time, some honourable Members are at pains to say that the State Governments did not help the bandh.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Yes.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: In that case, may I ask who withdrew the public transport?....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI CHITTA BASU : That might have been done by the Transport Corporation.. (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Therefore, they belong to the CPI(M) and the Forward Bloc? No; definitely not....(*Interruptions*)....Definitely not. They belong to the State Government....(*Interruptions*)....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No interruptions, please. I cannot allow this. ..(*Interruptions*)...He has to place his views You may agree or you may not agree with him ....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The transport workers in West Bengal have got the right to give a call for the *bandh* ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI) : That is what you feel.

SHRI M. A. BABY: In Delhi your government is supporting the DTC strike ... (*Interruptions*)....Your party is supporting the DTC strike in Delhi. How do you explain it? ... (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The West Bengal Government will not be a blackleg as your Government is...(*Interruptions*)..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Nothing of what he says will go on record... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI BUTA SINGH: As a matter of fact, Sir, it amounted literally to a lock-out in the States.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no. (*Interruptions*)....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI) : That may be your view. You cannot impose your view on him.... (*Interruptions*).... No, please. Please sit down. You may have different views.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI BUTA SINGH: In fact, they also tried to put.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: The honourable Home Minister must give correct facts.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, what does it mean if the Chief Minister of a State gives a call for a *bandh*? He cannot shed his clothes.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: He is the leader of a political party... (*Interruptions*)... He is the leader of a political party. You must know that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): This has to stop now. Every sentence you are interrupting and I cannot allow... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I could have understood if the General Secretary of the CPI(M) or the Telugu Desam had given the Call... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Home Minister does not know that Comrade Jyoti Basu is a member of the CPI (M) Politburo... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, please. No interruptions to be recorded. This cannot go on like this. Excepting the Minister's speech nothing is to be recorded... (*Interruptions*)....Nothing else is to be recorded.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I was trying to say that they are trying to put words into my mouth by saying that I have given a concealed threat in my statement. No; not at all. Far from it. But I have a duty towards the citizens of this country. I must remined them that the Constitution enjoins upon the duly elected Governments, whether of this party or that party, to protect the people and provide for the smooth functioning of the government apparatus in each and every State... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What are you doing in Punjab? ... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, please. Please sit down.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, in this case, these State Governments, these duly constituted State Governments, not only failed but also they connived in some places with those people who were trying to make a success of the bandh... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Nothing will go on record. Only what the Minister says will go on record... (*Interruptions*)... This is very unfair. I have allowed you all the time. In spite of that you are going to interrupt. It is very unfair. You cannot say that he should reply to you in a particular manner. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Can the Home Minister of the Union malign a State Government?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I am not. I have only reminded the State Governments of their duty, of their constitutional obligation. And this is the forum. It is only in this House that I have to discharge my duty as the Home Minister (*Interruptions*) They have a duty to protect life

and property. The Constitution also provides that it is the duty of the Central Government to see that national highways, the railways, etc. throughout the country are run without any obstacle. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I will not allow this. Please sit down.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: There are provisions in the Constitution. But we want to cooperate with all the State Governments, whether this Government or that Government. We wanted to enlist your cooperation. And to do this, we did all that we could. The Cabinet Secretary wrote, the Home Secretary wrote and my colleagues also persuaded the State Governments to see that life is not obstructed. But, unfortunately, because it was a highly politically motivated move and they wanted to stop all national life, which the people of the country have rejected... (*Interruptions*). Therefore, I wish to go on records.

Now, coming to Delhi, the hon. Members have shown some pictures in Connaught Place. (*Interruptions*). Some bad pictures have been shown here. This is being investigated. The hon. Member mentioned that some women workers were not properly handled. The report is with me. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): He said that it is being investigated. What more do you want? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BUTA SINGH: First I apologise to the distinguished wife of my colleague, our hon. Member here, if she was entangled in this thing. I will simply advise my hon. colleagues not to send their wives in such rowdy scenes. (*Interruptions*). I apologise to that lady. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHITTA BASU: He should withdraw this. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BUTA SINGH: What should I withdraw? My apologies to the lady? In such situation where there is a confrontation the ladies should keep away; that is my advice. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. A. BABY: Since this is in relation to me, may I seek a clarification? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: He is advising ladies not to participate in politics. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: I have to remind him of the history of national movement. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I have not yielded to you. I have yielded to the friend for whose wife I apologised.

SHRI M. A. BABY: I don't think that a male chauvinist having the influence of some feudalist values is hiding behind the turban of our hon. Home Minister. I don't say so. But my humble submission is whether, being the Home Minister who is constitutionally bound to safeguard the security of the people of our country, he is going to advise people not to engage in democratic movements because he feels that his police will misbehave with women—is he going to do that? Or is he going to bring his police people to behave properly?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: By all means, the Delhi Police behaved with considerable constraints and our lady police arrived on the scene. But may I ask Shri Chitta Basu and Mr. Baby, in their States when they tackle such situations do they employ the lady police? (*Interruptions*). No. I can show instances. In Calcutta itself, under the very nose of Mr. Chitta Basu ladies were manhandled, they were dragged on the road and... (*Interruptions*). Therefore, let us not go into that.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, as I have said in my statement, in this particular case an inquiry has been ordered. We will wait for the result of the investigation and whosoever is found not discharging his duty properly will be dealt with. But definitely some constables have been injured. They were mauled by the women. And

[Shri Buta Singh]

who will care for them? You asked the names of policemen. They are still in hospital. Therefore, what I am trying to say is that every citizen has a right to protest. But some of the organisations, some of the political parties, believe in the cult of violence. They should also see that while protesting through a democratic process they should also respect the law of the land. Why should they create a situation where a clash must occur?

Now, things have happened in West Bengal. My distinguished colleague, Shri P. N. Sukul, asked a question about one of our distinguished colleagues, the hon. Minister of State, Shri Das Munshi who was involved. They say that it is only 'hearsay story. I am going to give facts.

At about 18.45 hrs., on March 14, when Shri P. R. Das Munshi, Union Commerce Minister, was returning from Shivpur, Howrah, after attending a meeting, his car was obstructed by a CPM procession (200) near Betaitala, PS Shivpur, Distt. Howrah. During the incident there was a minor scuffle in which the personal security guards of the Minister were injured.

And you say it is on untruth. I do not know who told the untruth—either I told the untruth or Mr. Gurudas Gupta told the untruth. Therefore,...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: On a point of clarification, since he has referred to me. The West Bengal Home Minister and Chief Minister Mr. Jyoti Bosu have declared that they are going to institute an inquiry into it, and an inquiry is on.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I am happy. That means it is a fact. If the inquiry is made I welcome it.

Similarly, some of the hon. Members wanted to know about incidents in Kerala. The incident happened in three or four places. One was in Kunnamkulam in Trichur district, where the LDF workers attacked Dhanalakshmi Bank and South Indian Bank on the Bandh day. In another incident the LDF workers gheraoed the Managing Director of Oil Farm India Ltd., Punalur. The most serious incident happened when the car of a leading Press man of the Malayala Manorama was waylaid opposite the Collector's office in Kottayam and his driver attacked by a mob of LDF workers. Then, three vehicles of Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum, carrying employees were obstructed by LDF volunteers who caused damage to the vehicles. They also manhandled the Director of the Kendra and three other Doordarshan employees sustained injuries, as a result thereof.

Now, this is the type of the most peaceful so-called 'Bharat Bandh', and democratic, and non-violent..! (*Interruptions*). What else do you want? Now, my friend, Mr. Aladi Aruna wanted to know about the arrests. In Kerala 11,643 persons were removed and they were let off, no arrests. In West Bengal 685 Congress supporters were arrested. Why? Because they were mobilising the people to go to their work. This is their fault.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: I referred to the figures given by the Chief Secretary.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Now I am coming to Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu 18,000 people were arrested. They were produced before the magistrate and the magistrate remanded them. It is not the police which took them into custody. They were produced before the magistrate and the magistrate remanded them.

SHRI ALDAI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: What was the need to arrest 18,000?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I will tell you the need. The authorities thought that they were endangering the Public life, the public order. Therefore the magistrate remanded them. And let me remind the hon Members that they were taken to prison. Where else could they be taken? Therefore the only... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: There was no need for such arrests.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: place to take them was the lock up under the orders of the magistrate. If these very lockups which till recently, till yesterday, they were good, because they were manned by your Government, now they have become suffocating just overnight. Now you say they are blackholes and what not.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: I do not know whether Vellaichamy died due to suffocation or due to some other cause. May I know what was the reasons for his death?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: My advice to the hon. Member is not to go by what appears in the press alone. It can be true. It can be untrue also. What I am telling you is the factual position that they were remanded to a lockup by the magistrate. Therefore, they had to be kept there. Most of them were released and the remaining would have been released the next day. It was a very unique situation created in the country, created by some of the political parties, which happen to be ruling parties in some States. *Interruptions*). I think your accounting and your knowledge of mathematics is as defective as mine, because we are supposed to be very poor in mathematics. I did not know Mr. Chitta Basu will also be so poor because he jumps from thousands to lakhs. Normally people say that we people are used to such mathematics. But Chitta Basuji, I thought, you are more intelligent in mathematics. How could 18,000 be a lakh? Therefore, this was the most unfortunate development in our political life. The ruling parties in some States, they tried to disrupt public life causing inconvenience to the people putting the whole machinery out of gear, making the working class sit idle, thereby causing serious loss to the economy of the country. I am sure the hon. Members will be now have learnt this is a disastrous direction which must be checked and I am sure that they will co-operate with us in future. They may have serious differences, but in a democracy we have serious differences. We cannot tow the line that you want us to take, and you cannot tow the line that we want. You to take. You have your own manifasto. We have our own manifesto. That is why we are here. Otherwise, all of you would have been here on this side. Therefore, the differences are bound to be there. Let us discuss, let us mutually understand each other's policies and try to serve the people of India, which is the main cause to which every political party is pledged, whether they are extreme left or extreme right. Our sole purpose is to serve the people of India, therefore, every political party must mobilist to serve our people, who are the sovereigns. Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Members in future to desist from such violent and disruptive activities and help us in building the nation's unity and integrity. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): We will now take up the Short Duration Discussion. Yes, Mr. J. P. Yadav.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION ON INCREASING INCIDENTS OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY

Contd.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, महिलाएं जब जीवित जलती हैं पति के साथ तो सारा देश मिल कर रोष प्रकट करता है, हाय-तोबा मचाता है लेकिन जब महिलाओं के साथ बलात्कार किया जाता है तो वह जिंदा जीवन में मौत के समान है । साढ़े सात वर्ष पूर्व माया देवी के साथ जघन्य कांड हुआ और पडरिया में रात्रि के समय डेढ़ दर्जन महिलाओं के साथ सामूहिक बलात्कार हुआ । मैं शासन से कहना चाहता हूं कि सामूहिक बलात्कार की संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है । चार दशक में यह बलात्कार एक घिनौना नियम बन गया है । दूसरे दशक में बलात्कार की घटना में वृद्धि तेजी से हो रही है । 40 लाख